

February 23, 1951.

Dr. R. S. Benham,
Department of Medicine,
University of Chicago,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Benham:

Thank you for your letter of the 20th, and for the 20 cultures which arrived today. As it happens, 20 is the most convenient unit for the number of cultures to be handled together, so I am glad to note that the mailing cartons will accommodate this number. I will return the empty tubes and carton in a few days.

After a little further thought, I see that there is no point in restricting the specimens to one culture per individual. Therefore, I will be pleased to have any number of clearly distinguishable types if, as your labels already suggest is likely, it is apparent where the different isolates originate.

I will, of course, be grateful for your courtesy in funneling Miss Turner's collections to me also.

I just recalled your remark that streptomycin may have induced fermentative changes in some of your enteric isolates. I cannot remember whether this was an in vivo or an in vitro phenomenon. If it was the latter, so that controlled experiments could be carried out on pure cultures, I should be very much interested to hear the details, so that I might try to repeat the phenomenon. My own experience, with a limited number of pure cultures, has not included such changes as a concomitant of variation to streptomycin-resistance.

If I repeat my appreciation for your assistance and trouble, you will get tired of it, and think me insincere. I remain therefore,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg